

## Message Text

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43/53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 101524Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2032

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1532

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS IS EG

SUBJECT: GOI COMPLAINT RE US FLAG VESSEL

"WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL"

REF: TEL AVIV 875 AND STATE 029556

1. EMBOFF TODAY DISCUSSED REPORTED VIOLATIONS WITH ROSS CRAIG, GENERAL MANAGER, AMOCO, WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR US FLAG VESSEL "WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL" OPERATIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ. CRAIG INFORMS US HIS COMPANY BEGAN GEOPHYSICAL STUDIES IN THEIR NEW CONCESSION IN GULF OF SUEZ IN MID-JANUARY. THIS IS FIRST GEOPHYSICAL WORK TO BE DONE BY AMOCO IN GULF SINCE 1969. IN PLANNING GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION PATH, AMOCO DESIGNATED TO "WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL" CERTAIN SEISMIC POINTS THROUGHOUT ITS NEW CONCESSION IN GULF OF SUEZ. FIRST POINTS WERE WITHIN THREE NAUTICAL MILES OF SINAI COAST.

2. SHIP WAS FIRST INTERCEPTED BY ISRAELI NAVAL PARTOL VESSEL JAN 18 WHILE WORKING OVER THESE POINTS. IT WAS INFORMED OPERATIONS WERE BEING CONDUCTED IN "OCCUPIED WATERS" AND WAS ASKED TO "LEAVE OCCUPIED WATERS." SHIP TURNED AND HEADED FFOR MEDIAN VXOINE, COMPLETING ITS SEISMIC WORK DURING 12 HOUR SAIL BACK TOWARD MEDIAN LINE. ISRAELI PATROL BOAT INTERCEPTED  
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VESSEL AT END OF 12 HOURS, BUT ACCORDING TO AMOCO DID NOT

FURTHER INSTRUCT THE SHIP. AS RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT, AMOCO INSTRUCTED SHIP NOT RPT NOT TO PROCEED CLOSER THAN SIX NAUTICAL MILES TO SINAI COAST FOR DURATION OF GEOPHYSICAL STUDY. (THIS DISTANCE DECIDED UPON BY AMOCO AS RESULT OF 1972 INCIDENT WHEN ISRAELIS STOPPED AMOCO VESSEL AND TOLD SHIP'S CAPTAIN NOT TO OPERATE WITHIN SIX NAUTICAL MILES OF SINAI COASTLINE.) JAN 18 INCIDENT DID NOT RESULT IN ANY DEFINITION BY ISRAELI CAPTAIN OF "OCCUPIED WATERS".

3. "WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL" PROCEEDED WITH SEISMIC STUDIES FROM JAN 18 TO PRESENT REMAINING OUTSIDE OF SIX NAUTICAL MILES OF ISRAELI COASTLINE. CRAIG INDICATED NO INCIDENTS FEB 1-2. HOWEVER, SHE WAS AGAIN INTERCEPTED BY ISRAELI PATROL BOAT ON FEB 8. ON THIS OCCASION SHE WAS ENGAGED IN SEISMIC WORK OUTSIDE OF SIX NAUTICAL MILE LINE AND, IN FACT, WELL TO THE EAST OF GULF OF SUEZ MEDIAN STRIP. ISRAELI SKIPPER INSTRUCTED SHIP TO STOP WORK, BUT AGAIN DID NOT GIVE DEFINITION OF "OCCUPIED WATERS".

4. CRAIG ADVISES SHIP COMPLETES SEISMIC WORK AFTERNOON FEB 10 AND WILL LEAVE GULF OF SUEZ FEB 11 FOR WORK WITH UNION OIL COMPANY IN RED SEA CONCESSION. AMOCO DOES NOT PLAN FURTHER SEISMIC WORK IN ITS GULF OF SUEZ CONCESSION AT THIS TIME.

5. INASMUCH AS SHIP WILL BE LEAVING GULF OF SUEZ WITHIN NEXT FEW HOURS, WE DID NOT PASS ALONG TO CRAIG INFORMATION CONTAINED TEL AVIV 875 REGARDING "PRIOR NOTIFICATION". NOR HAVE WE CONTACTED MATTHEWSON OF WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL.

6. COMMENT: KEY ELEMENT IN RECENT INCIDENTS APPEARS BE LACK OF DEFINITION OF WHAT ISRAELIS CONSIDER "OCCUPIED WATERS". IT APPEARS THAT AMOCO IS UNCERTAIN ON THIS SCORE SINCE ISRAELI INTERCEPTIONS HAVE BEEN AT RANDOM LOCATIONS ALONG SHIPS GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH TRACK. DEPT IS OF COURSE ALSO AWARE THAT GOE WOULD DOUBTLESS LOOK ASKANCE AT AMERICAN COMPANY WORKING UNDER EGYPTIAN CONTRACT NOTIFYING ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ABOUT SEISMIC WORK IN WATERS WHICH EGYPTIANS CONSIDER BELONG TO THE.

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6. ASIDE FROM MOBIL, WHICH HAS SMALL CONCESSION AT THE MOUTH OF GULF OF SUEZ, AMOCO IS ONLY AMERICAN COMPANY THUS FAR ENGAGED IN SEISMIC WORK IN THOSE WATERS. LIKELIHOOD OTHER AMERICAN VESSEL BEING INVOLVED IN WORK IN DISPUTED WATERS SEEMS SLIGHT. FYI - GERMAN COMPANY DEMINEX IS OTHER MAJOR CONCESSION HOLDER IN GULF OF SUEZ. END FYI. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS, SEISMIC PROSPECTING, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 TEL AVIV 875, 75 AND STATE 029556  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOI COMPLAINT RE US FLAG VESSEL "WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL"  
**TAGS:** PLOS, ENRG, IS, EG, US, AMOCO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006